6/7/68

Dear Hal,

Your letter of 6/1/ sent regular mail. just arrived. What you say of Latham is true and known. The last I heard of him he had or was about to ship out from San Francisco. He did see Thornley's first manuscript of the Idle Warriors. He was, as I recall, bartender at the Bourbon House.

Now that Dave is starting up a "Fair Play For Thornley Committee", please encourage him to organize subsidiaries for Bolton, INCA, Butler and J. Edgar Hoover. Hemis absolutely a nut. He does not know what is known of Thornley, does not know what Thornley may or may not have said before the grand jury. But what he does know is that he fed Garrison an awful lot of crap about Thornley and Heindell, stuff that for the longest time had Jim on the wrong track. Knowing him to be capable of this additional stupidity, I wrote him within the past two days asking him if he really knew enough to even have an opinion? I asked him to answer some questions to himself and to then ask himself if he really knew anything about Thornley.

Because of all the trouble he has made, perhaps it is best that he take this open stand. Then others will know where he is. Thornley, from the public record, did a rotten thing: he helped frame Oswald and was the only Marine-mate willing to do this. From the private record, my own work, I tell you his great ambition, in his words, was to piss on Kennedy's grave. Let Dave have him and his concept of "fair play" with it.

I think Calixto and Calixtas are not the same. However, for my purposes, can you get me a copy of the original letter? I will then show it to someone. It will be much better than the typed copy. If necessary, mask any names. The ancestry of my subject is, I think, Greek.

The second name Lifton mentioned as knowing Thornley must have been not Covin but Lovin. I know him. And many others. If Jim had not mislaid copies of a series of Thornley letter I gave him more than a month ago, I'd have done more work on this when last I was there. I now have to supply him more copies and make a spare set to be worked on. Bplton'd column of which I know was inspired by my visit to him, well before Garrison developed his interest (I suppose largely from my work). I then told Cliff that Garrison's interest in Thornley was inevitable, that I thought Thornley's interest lay in offering to say what he knew, that if he feared contact with Garriosn and the grand jury, I would be happy to talk to him. In garbled, anti-Semitic form Bolton wrote a letter he then used as a column. But even he wound up encouraging Thornley to take my advice. Now I have never sought access to the grand-jury testimony, enver asked what Thornley swore to. I know that there is enough in what I have to convince me he is an essential part of the story of the frameup at the very least and an unfit object for corcodile tears, even Dave's. Dave, for all his high IQ, is really not competent or responsible. He always manages to help or try and help the other side. And he has acted as Liebeler's agent, to my knowledge for he so told me in complaining of the arrangements for a debate between Liebeler and me. He loused it up, personally, by interfering with the school.

Can you go over your letter and give me a memo on the Thornley part that I can give to Jim, with your sources? I try and keep a fairly complete file here because there is more work I will do on it and him. I just love a guy whose great ambition was to piss on JFK's grave and think he is worthy of any attention I can devote to him!

The evidence is lacking, but I'm told Thornley did a little work for Kent Courtney. I have a witness who so decalres and another to support the first in saying he tried to land with Courtney. This is 100% consistent with his writing that I have.

Still, perhaps, on Thornley, if you recall my comments in O in N.O. on the police-mind presumptions about the finding of Oswald's handbills near Reisman's home on Pine St., let me point out it was at least as close to Courtney's. I have been there and checked this hunch. The pictures didn't turn out, but it is so. Interesting? And the man who sent Oswald out from an employment service for a job is the same man who sent an employee to Courtney, the man who got the job KT wanted.

What is your source on Clay Shaw's having bailed out Philip Geraci III "after a raid on a home where a party was being held." This could be very, very important, but I think it is probably another Philip Geraci, not the young man but an old one of whom I know. I get nothing from LA and little from elsewhere. This is particularly true of my own work that I leave behind. I am unhappy about it, am seriously inhibited by it, and have learned to accept it and do what I can. I spend the same amount of time. I wrote of my interest in P.G III a long time ago. I never got any response of any kind from anyone.

There is other reason to have interest in the Universal Life Church, reason from Dallas and the fleeing Tip it killer and the search for him. I understand Al Chapman was shamas there (he has helped me). If you spend any time here, I'll give you the address of a guy named Fairbanks who was in Ferrie's church. He is in D.C. I sent him what I got from him and it never reached him or got lost in the office. I believe the latter.

Please let me know your schedule for your trip, particularly when you plan to be here, so I can try and arrange to be here the same time. I must return to New Orleans as soon as it can be financed.

As you know, partly in preparation for your departure, I have been keeping in touch with Paul who continues to do wonderful work.

Thank you for the check. I've already used it, and it came today. However, I repeat what you evade, that the responsibility is not yours. Can you imagine, aside from our acute personal needs, what I could do with that money and what John helped ABC cost me by intruding when I warned them not to and giving them time to stick me with transportation on the last trip? They would finance two two-week trips to N.O. for me. Why these people behave that way escapes and astounds me.

Last two pages of Gary's 4/18 ltr enclosed.

The name Sylvia Bartin sounds very familiar. I think he knew her. I forget too much, probably have it in files or notes. Ditto with Warden save there I have a feeling he is connected with violence, Cubans or both. What you say of this couple could be interesting, as are certain locations on St. Charles Ave. Can you speak to them and get all they have? The name Radelat escapes me. If it is in CD75 and I do not know it, I suspect the document is suppressed. I have everything not suppressed on Ferrie. Can you tell me what he ties to?

Nothing re: Layman's Commission.

Never heard of Golden Eagle, La. I am inclined to doubt the story because most of those munitions were for part of the Bay of Pigs. However if I ever knew the source of those raided 7/31/63, I have forgotten, so maybe it is right. Gretna is a suburb of N.O. If Ferrie and others flew simultaneously with Steven Romero, Romero has quite an expensive Helicopter. To whom are you referring in the last part of the first paragraph on page 6?...Inclined, from that description and the name of the organization to believe Bernie not Shaw.

I regret all these things are learned in areas in which I work and they are kept secret from me while I go to great lengths to let others know what I learn

Why I can only guess, and none of the guesses are pleasant. It does me no personal good to have such information, for during thepast more than nine months I have worked on things I do not intend to publish, just to help Jim. However, there is ntohing to be gained by making an issue, so I don't. I have yet to get from LA the documents Larry Howard turned over to me and I to Steve, never got the documents offered by a witness I turned over to Jaffe. Much of what was sent to Jim has already not gotten there but has gotten into private hands that will publish as original.

Thanks for the thing on Goldberg at UCLA. I wish I could get to talk on that series, to present a few things I have over Goldberg's signature, aside from addressing his nonsense.

Sincerely,